



CALL FOR PAPERS

16th Central and Eastern European Forum for Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists

DIVERSITIES OF LEGAL LANDSCAPES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

- Technologies
- Procedures
- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Climate Changes

12TH-13TH OF SEPTEMBER 2024

SARAJEVO, B&H UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO FACULTY OF LAW

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

BY MAY 30TH

ceeforum2024@gmail.com

16th CEE Forum of Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists
September 12th and 13th, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina

Diversities of Legal Landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe

Technologies // Procedures // Democracy // Rule of Law // Climate Change

Diversity encompasses the state of being diverse, different, and different in opinion, approaches, methodologies, and concepts. It can also be defined as the practice of quality of including or involving people from a range of different social backgrounds. Diversity is a fact of many different types of things or people being included in something – society, state, forum, institution. It also means the fact that there are many different ideas, concepts, views, arguments and opinions about something. **Legal landscapes** encompass the ever-changing framework of laws, legal principles, regulations, conventions, law-like normative systems, the ways of legal thinking, and legal spheres. Legal landscapes also include various areas of law, including constitutional law, criminal law, environmental law, international law, private and public law, and legal procedures. They reflect different dynamics and natures of society performing in dialectics with law. Legal landscapes and legal fields are deeply intertwined with social contexts and changes, political developments and processes, emerging technologies, and climate changes.

CEE Forum takes an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary approach, creating opportunities for cooperation among legal theorists, philosophers, political scientists, sociologists, and social theorists.

Technologies refer to the application of scientific knowledge, methods, and tools to solve practical problems or achieve specific objectives. In the context of law, technologies may include digital tools, software applications, information systems, and other innovations used to enhance legal processes, improve access to justice, or streamline legal services.

We live in the age of emerging digital technologies. They permeate our lives and shape our societies and communities. However, the rapid development and adoption of technology in various domains poses new challenges and opportunities for legal philosophy. It has often been created and deployed without careful regard for diversity.

This year's CEE Forum will seek to consider how we can ensure that technology is used in a way that respects human dignity, rights and justice? How can we promote diversity and inclusion in the design, regulation, and impact of technology? How can we address the ethical, social, and legal implications of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and blockchain?

Procedures encompass the formal methods, rules, and protocols used to carry out tasks, render decisions, or enforce laws within a legal system. This could involve civil or criminal procedures, administrative processes, legislative procedures, or judicial proceedings as well as abuse of legal proceedings just like in the case of SLAPPS. Discussion under this theme may include topics such as legal proceedings, court rules, administrative regulations, due process, and procedural fairness.

Democracy (accommodating diversity, post-conflict societies, populism)

Diversity involves the state of being varied in opinions, approaches, methodologies, and social backgrounds within legal landscapes. It practices inclusivity, ensuring representation from a range of social, cultural, and historical perspectives. The CEE Forum 2024 will delve into how legal systems can be structured for inclusivity, strategies to enhance diversity in legal institutions, and the exploration of distinct legal cultures within Central and Eastern Europe.

Post-Conflict Societies refer to regions recovering from historical turmoil. In a legal context, it entails addressing aftermath, ensuring justice, and rebuilding frameworks conducive to societal healing. Discussions will include transitional justice mechanisms, rebuilding trust, international legal interventions, and nuances of post-conflict power-sharing arrangements.

Populism in legal landscapes involves political movements challenging established norms, potentially threatening the rule of law and democratic values. The forum will explore the legal implications of democratic backsliding, the balance between popular will and legal norms, and how populist pressures affect human rights within the context of illiberal democracy.

Rule of Law has been challenged by governments in Central and Eastern Europe in the last decade. Populism has fueled illiberal tendencies across the region, as politicians have consolidated power by undermining democratic institutions and independent social regulators and public watchdogs, including the judiciary, ombudsmen institutions, free media, and public broadcasters threatening civil society and universities and restricting fundamental freedoms. Appointment of loyalists to judicial positions, systematic problems regarding the right to a fair trial, questioning of the supremacy of EU law and implementation of the ECtHR and CJEU judgments, endangering minorities' rights, including sexual minorities, migrants and women, are among the rule of law issues raised in these countries. Such trends were visible in EU member states, candidates, and potential candidates.

This year's CEE Forum will seek to identify how to restore democratic institutions and processes once there is a change in government (like it happened in Poland). What is the role for the Venice Commission in defending and restoring the rule of law? How effective are the tools of the Council of Europe and the European Union in tackling the rule of law backsliding in member and non-member states? How do judicial professional organizations and judiciary respond to executive and legislator actions against jeopardizing their independence? What is the interplay between European courts and domestic courts in protecting right to a fair trial?

Climate Change has been recognized as an issue that could either boost or weaken democratic processes and institutions. It could contribute to further democratic participation or in case of failure, be used by autocratic politicians against democracy itself. This year's CEE Forum will seek to identify what is the potential of strategic litigation for effectively tackling climate change. What is the potential of the Citizens Assembly and other tools of deliberative democracy for shaping climate change policy? How do various interests and lobbies undermine a proper democratic response to climate change? What is the interplay between weak and captured state institutions and corruption and climate change policies?

Possible topics

Some possible topics for contributions to the conference include:

1. *Digital Justice: The Role of Technology in Shaping Legal Procedure*
2. *Judicial Reform Initiatives: Lessons Learned and Future Directions in Central and Eastern Europe*
3. *Procedural Justice in Central and Eastern Europe: Ensuring Fairness and Equity in Legal Processes*
4. *Global Perspectives on Digital Taxation: Varied Approaches and Challenges*
5. *Navigating the Complexities of Digital Taxes: Implications and Strategies for Businesses in a Global Economy*
6. *Harnessing VAT Regulations in the Digital Era: Opportunities and Challenges for Technology-driven Businesses*
7. *Inclusive Legal Frameworks: Structuring legal systems for inclusivity, considering diverse perspectives.*
8. *Representation in Legal Institutions: Strategies to enhance diversity within legal institutions and decision-making.*
9. *Legal Diversity in Central and Eastern Europe: Discussing distinct legal cultures in Central and Eastern Europe and their impact on inclusivity.*
10. *Transitional Justice: Role of legal systems, mechanisms for addressing human rights abuses, and the influence of power-sharing in ensuring justice.*
11. *Rebuilding Trust: Legal contributions to rebuilding trust, considering historical grievances, and the role of power-sharing.*
12. *International Legal Interventions: Impact of international legal interventions in post-conflict societies and the role of power-sharing agreements.*
13. *Post-Conflict Power Sharing: Exploring nuances of post-conflict power-sharing, effectiveness in promoting stability, and legal mechanisms governing these arrangements.*
14. *Democratic Backsliding: Legal implications of democratic backsliding, cases of manipulating legal frameworks, and the role of power-sharing in preserving democratic values.*
15. *Balancing Popular Will and Legal Norms: Analysis of challenges in balancing popular will with legal principles, emphasizing power-sharing's role in navigating populist influences.*
16. *Human Rights Challenges and Illiberal Democracy: Exploring the impact of populist movements on human rights in illiberal democracies. Discussing legal strategies to preserve fundamental rights and values.*

Additionally, participants are welcome to propose their own topics for the open panel discussion.

Practical information

The conference is aimed at students, PhD students, as well as young post-docs and professors coming from all over the world (not only from Central and Eastern Europe).

The conference language is English. If you wish to participate, please send us an abstract of about 300-500 words at ceeforum2024@gmail.com by **May 30th, 2024**. We will send the

acceptance of papers by **June 10th, 2024**. Following the acceptance, we will await payment of the participation fee until **June 30th, 2024**.

After the conference, selected participants will be invited to submit their papers for publication in a volume of the conference proceedings, our Central and Eastern European Forum for Legal, Political, and Social Theory Yearbook.

The participation fee is 100 EUR and covers conference materials, coffee and snacks during the breaks, as well as lunch meals and joint dinner. We kindly ask participants to arrange and pay for their travel and accommodation individually. We will advise on lodging and directions as well as communicate the payment instructions to accepted participants via email.

In case you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Organizing Committee via our conference email: ceeforum2024@gmail.com.



Organizing Committee: Jasna Bakšić Muftić, PhD; Midhat Izmirlija, PhD; Damir Banović, PhD; Nasir Muftić, PhD; Harun Išerić, LL.M.; Tahir Herenda, LL.M.; Lejla Ramić, LL.M.; Anisa Ruhotina, LL.M.